

and farmers in other northern States. But, unfortunately, it doesn't solve the challenges agriculture producers in my State are facing this summer. Right now, almost every acre of land in South Dakota is experiencing drought conditions. A huge portion of the State is facing a severe drought. And some areas of the State have been classified as being in extreme drought. And ag producers in other States are facing similar conditions.

Hay is in short supply. Without adequate forage, some cattle producers are being forced to cut down their herds, which is devastating for producers who have spent years building their herds. Emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres can help alleviate forage shortages for livestock producers during drought years.

South Dakota has nearly 1.4 million acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program—at least at one time that was the number. It is not that high anymore. I am a longtime champion of this program, which supports both the production, agriculture, and hunting industries in South Dakota.

The Conservation Reserve Program provides critical habitat for pheasants and other wildlife, which contributes significantly to our State's economy. Haying and grazing CRP acres can also provide a lifeline for South Dakota ag producers during droughts like the one that our State is currently facing.

Last month, I sent a letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack urging him to release additional Conservation Reserve Program acres to help South Dakota producers, many of whom are in desperate need. And while I am pleased USDA is currently allowing emergency grazing in many counties, emergency CRP haying is not allowed until after the primary nesting season ends on August 1, which is too late in a drought year.

Agriculture is a tough business, and our producers have had to endure a tremendous amount over the past few years from tough weather conditions, to the COVID pandemic. Cattle producers are also dealing with market volatility that has recently provided record-high profit margins for meatpackers, while producers struggle to stay in business.

I will continue pressing the administration and working with my colleagues to hold the big four meatpackers accountable to the producers and consumers who depend on them. The Department of Agriculture should do everything it can to help farmers and ranchers weather this drought. And I will keep doing everything I can to get relief to producers in my State and around the country.

I am grateful for the Department of Agriculture's decision on haying and grazing on prevented planting acres. And I will keep working to ensure that CRP and all USDA programs have the flexibility necessary to meet the needs of producers while also making sure we balance the wildlife and conservation needs of our State.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FENTANYL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the countdown is on. Today marks the beginning of 100 days until the critical and lifesaving authority placing fentanyl-related substances in schedule I expires. In 100 days that expires.

Congress has extended this authority multiple times, most recently in May. However, when choosing how long to extend this authority, Congress shortchanged itself by providing only 5 months to contemplate how to permanently control fentanyl analogs. I pushed for a longer extension, even spearheading bipartisan legislation that would have extended this authority into the next year, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle insisted that 5 months was sufficient to work with the administration to find a permanent solution scheduling fentanyl-related substances.

I had skepticism about this when the 5-month extension passed in May, and I have even more skepticism now. That is because we are only 100 days away from losing this essential authority and the administration still has not indicated how it intends to solve this problem. So Congress is operating in the dark.

The administration says that a legislative proposal will be sent to Congress as early as next month. But this proposal won't be a done deal once it arrives on Capitol Hill because, you know, Presidents propose, Congress disposes.

If it doesn't include measures to protect vulnerable communities, to prevent more drug overdose victims, and proactively deter and punish drug traffickers, then it won't be enough to solve the problems of a drug—fentanyl—killing several hundred thousand people.

I have been beating the drum on scheduling fentanyl analogs for a long period of time because it is a fight worth having. We simply can't afford to let these deadly substances go unscheduled.

What happens if we don't schedule fentanyl analogs in the next 100 days? Well, it is pretty obvious. Opioid-related deaths fueled by fentanyl analogs increased by 35 percent in my State of Iowa. What about the other 49 States? But 35 percent in Iowa last year. That happens to be in line with nationwide trends. So deaths will continue to rise if we don't buckle down and get onto this issue of scheduling fentanyl schedule I on a permanent basis.

Also, according to the Customs and Border Patrol, so far this year, enough

fentanyl and its analogs have been seized to kill the entire population of the United States not once, but 10 times over.

Some may view drug crimes as victimless. You need to tell that to the hundreds of thousands of families who have lost their brother, sister, parent, or child to fentanyl.

Tell that to Rob and Deb Courtney, the parents of Chad Courtney from North Liberty, IA. Chad died 5 years ago because of fentanyl. He used painkillers and then turned to abusing heroin. Rod and Deb tried to help their son through rehab and treatment. Then one day they received the call that they had been dreading. Their son died because a drug dealer laced heroin with a deadly fentanyl substance. Rod said that one of the last memories he has of his son was picking him up from treatment and Chad stating, "I just want to make a difference."

We owe it to Chad and the other 36,359 victims of fentanyl-related overdose deaths to make a difference now, and that means passing legislation that schedules fentanyl and its analogs permanently.

Congress can ensure that we put people over profits and communities over cartels by permanently scheduling fentanyl-related substances. I don't doubt that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle want to protect their constituents. Nobody wants more overdose deaths in their home States. So let's work together to put this issue to rest at last.

Starting today, the countdown is on. As I said in the beginning, 100 more days. I hope the administration and my Senate colleagues are ready to get to work on permanently scheduling fentanyl-related substances. I know that I am ready.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### NOMINATIONS OF TRACY STONE-MANNING AND DAVID CHIPMAN

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss two troubling nominations by President Biden for positions that have very real impacts on my State of Wyoming and the people who live there.

One of the simplest yet truest rules of governance is that personnel is policy. We have seen this rule play out over and over under President Biden.

During last year's election, the media created a narrative that a Biden Presidency would unite the country with bipartisanship. That has not happened. Many of the President's policies have been extreme appeals to the far left and decidedly hostile to our way of life in Wyoming and the West.

I believe much of this can be traced to the people with whom he has surrounded himself and to those he has appointed. That is why I am so concerned about two of the President's nominees that the Senate is considering.

First, there is Tracy Stone-Manning, President Biden's nominee to serve as

Director of the Bureau of Land Management. I am particularly interested in this nomination because the BLM manages about 18 million acres in Wyoming and huge tracts of land throughout the West. In fact, 90 percent of Federal and public land is west of the Mississippi.

We need a land manager who understands, respects, and implements multiple use of public lands with which Americans in the West are particularly accustomed.

The BLM has historically managed for multiple use, which is, in many cases, required by law. Under Ms. Stone-Manning, I am very concerned that multiple-use principles will change. The reason is quite simple. This nominee is a radical. She has been involved with ecoterrorists in the past, including a tree-spiking incident in Idaho.

Her extremist ties and past activism have even led a former Obama BLM Director to withdraw his support for her. Wyoming and other States in the West would be completely hamstrung if BLM land policy changed. Given Ms. Stone-Manning's militant history, I am not sure she would care.

Then there is David Chipman, President Biden's nominee to lead the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. One would be hard-pressed to identify a worse candidate for the job.

According to reports, Chipman may have lost his own gun while serving as an ATF agent. He also failed twice to define the term "assault weapon" during his confirmation hearing. This level of irresponsibility and lack of basic firearms knowledge is hardly an endorsement for someone tasked with overseeing gun use in the United States.

Chipman has also reportedly accused Black Americans who were successful on an ATF test of cheating because, in his opinion, too many were passing the test.

Let's be real. This kind of discrimination would tank a Republican candidate.

Mr. Chipman has also endorsed efforts to defund the police and has supported the science fiction-sounding notion of precrime arrests. His idea of effective law enforcement would be to arrest people before they commit crimes.

I came to Washington to solve real problems and get things done. I don't care if the solutions come from the right or the left. I am here to support good legislation and good policy. That is why I have backed President Biden's decision to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. That is why I have supported many of his nominees with whom I may disagree on some policy points, but they are nonetheless qualified for the roles—nominees including Janet Yellen, Pete Buttigieg, and Gary Gensler.

But based on their past experience and expressed behavior, Tracy Stone-Manning and David Chipman have dis-

qualified themselves and are direct contradictions to the bipartisanship and unity that President Biden called for and promised in his inaugural address.

If these extremist nominees are confirmed, they will direct their respective agencies toward ends that are actively and openly hostile to the Wyoming way of life that I am here in Washington to support and defend.

I call on President Biden to withdraw these names and, instead, send us nominees for these positions who better reflect the bipartisan reputation the President spent decades cultivating in this Senate. If the President does not withdraw these nominees, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote to reject them.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Arkansas.

#### HONORING OFFICER KEVIN DALE APPLE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, it is an honor to be with my friend and colleague Senator COTTON as we rise to honor Pea Ridge Police Officer Kevin Apple, who was killed in the line of duty on Saturday, June 26.

He made the ultimate sacrifice while attempting to apprehend two suspects who were fleeing from police. Although this was the last example of his selfless service and dedication to protecting his community, it was certainly not the only one.

Officer Apple bravely devoted his life to law enforcement and the good that it can bring about. He worked tirelessly to uphold law and order over the course of 23 years, serving several northwest Arkansas communities, including Pea Ridge for the last 3 years. He was known to consistently support others. The compassion he exhibited in and out of uniform will be fondly remembered by those he helped.

"He gave me hope again," one citizen remarked of Officer Apple.

Another individual commented that, as a result of Officer Apple, he changed his life. Now, more than 20 years later, he maintains a deep appreciation of the support he received from Officer Apple.

He did much more than serve and protect. The Pea Ridge police chief said that Officer Apple put humanity in the job. For a police officer, there is no higher compliment than that.

He was also known as a prankster. He was usually upbeat and lifted the spirits of those around him with a smile that would light up a room.

Friends, neighbors, and colleagues describe him as someone who cared passionately about his role in supporting public safety and was more concerned about lending a helping hand rather than writing tickets. He was a loyal friend and leader who always put the needs of others above his own.

Officer Apple leaves a legacy of lasting impact on all of those whose lives he touched in his own unique way. Whether attending a child's birthday party or checking on an elderly citizen,

he went above and beyond the call of duty and constantly showed his dedication to the people he was sworn to protect.

My hope is the community's support will provide comfort to his family, his friends, and brothers and sisters in blue. We can be very proud of how northwest Arkansas has already bonded together to give back to the Pea Ridge Police Department and this fallen law enforcement officer's loved ones.

Officer Apple was the embodiment of what it means to wear a police badge and uniform. His exemplary service and dedication to serving his community are truly inspirational, and he leaves behind a worthy example for other officers to imitate.

We all mourn the loss of Officer Apple and are deeply saddened by this tragedy. I join with Arkansans in expressing our gratitude for his service and sacrifice. I am honored to recognize his life with Senator COTTON today and pray that his family and his colleagues and community members know that he will forever be remembered as a hero.

With that, I yield to Senator COTTON.

Mr. COTTON. I thank Senator BOOZMAN.

Mr. President, Police Officer Kevin Dale Apple of the Pea Ridge Police Department protected the community he loved for 23 years, but Officer Apple's long and honorable career in law enforcement was cut tragically short just a couple of weeks ago.

It all began with a call to "be on the lookout" for a blue Jeep that was fleeing from police in Rogers. Officer Apple and a fellow officer spotted the vehicle at a convenience store, and they sprang into action, approaching the car to speak to its occupants. When they did, the driver of the Jeep rammed one of their police cars and then struck Officer Apple, dragging him to his death. He succumbed to his injuries at the age of 53.

Officer Apple's death is a tragedy and a crime, but it is also a reminder; it is a reminder of the grave danger that police officers face across the country every day when they put on the bullet-proof vest and leave home, not knowing whether they will go home that night to take it off. This year alone, in being barely halfway through the year, 162 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty across our country.

Officer Apple's death is also a reminder that, every time an officer approaches a suspect, he or she may be exposed to hidden threats, which may be a concealed weapon or, in this case, a vehicle that has been transformed into an instrument of death. All of the comfortable critics of the police who love to second-guess their every move, while officers are under incredible stress and danger in the heat of the moment, can stand to learn that sobering fact.

Officer Apple's death is also a warning of the tragic consequences of ill-